

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, GW, WB

SUBJECT: MOVE TO TEGEL SOUTH

1. FRG FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS ROCKE AND FISCHER CALLED AT THE EMBASSY AUGUST 9 TO DISCUSS THE MINISTRY'S PRESENT THINKING RE THE OPENING OF THE NEW TEGEL SOUTH AIRPORT AND THE FUTURE UTILIZATION OF TEMPELHOF. SPECIFICALLY, FRG AUTHORITIES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT US PLANS FOR AREAS OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING TO BE VACATED BY THE IGS CARRIERS AND WHETHER PARTS OF THE BUILDING WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY BY BERLIN AGENCIES SUCH AS THE LANDESPOST. ADDITIONALLY, FRG AUTHORITIES WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT PROVE POSSIBLE TO MOVE CERTAIN QBAL GROUND HANDLING EQUIPMENT TO TEMPELHOF FROM GATOW WHERE IT PRESENTLY PRESENTS A STORAGE PROBLEM. SIMILARLY, ROCKE SAID THE FINANCE MINISTRY HAD GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING PORTIONS OF THE BERLIN STOCKPILE TO TEMPELHOF SHOULD THIS PROVE FEASIBLE.

2. ROCKE SAID THAT THE FINANCE MINISTRY HOPED THAT THE
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BERLIN AIRPORT COMPANY'S (BFG) OBLIGATIONS AT TEMPELHOF

COULD BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED, IF NOT TOTALLY ELIMINATED, AFTER THE MOVE TO TEGEL, SINCE A HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AT BOTH AIRPORTS WOULD TAX THE BFG'S FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES. HE ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT USAF'S INTENTIONS RE THE BFG'S PAYMENT OF A PORTION OF THE LANDING FEES COLLECTED FROM CIVIL AIRCRAFT AT TEMPELHOF. ALONG SIMILAR LINES, ROCKE AND FISCHER PRESUMED THAT PREVIOUSLY PLANNED INVESTMENT FOR UPGRADING FACILITIES AT TEMPELHOF WOULD BE SCALED DOWN TO REFLECT THE GREATLY REDUCED LEVEL OF TRAFFIC AFTER THE MOVE.

3. TURNING TO THE PENDING PROPOSAL FOR BERLIN ATC MODERNIZATION, ROCKE SAID THAT THE FRG WOULD WISH TO CONSULT BEFORE A COMPANY WAS SELECTED TO DO THE JOB. GIVEN PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, HE BELIEVED THE FRG WOULD BE INCLINED TO FAVOR THE SELECTION OF A BERLIN OR FRG BASED FIRM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THIS TYPE OF PROJECT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CHOOSE A CONTRACTOR WHO COULD BEST MEET THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

4. ROCKE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT FRG CONSIDERATION OF THE SENAT/AIRLINES AGREEMENT ON THE MOVE TO TEGEL SOUTH WAS NOT YET COMPLETE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS PERSONALLY CONFIDENT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD CONCUR SUBJECT TO CAA ACTION ON FEES AND RENTALS AT TEGEL SOUTH.

5. EMB CAA TOLD ROCKE THAT INTERESTED US AGENCIES WERE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING MANY OF THE QUESTIONS HE RAISED AND WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN OF FRG VIEWS. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS REVIEWING BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS FOR TEMPELHOF OF THE MOVE AND USAF'S COLLECTION OF LANDING FEES. ASSUMING APPROPRIATE STORAGE AREAS BECOME AVAILABLE, ROCKE'S SUGGESTIONS RE QBAL EQUIPMENT AND STOCKPILE APPEAR TO MERIT FURTHER CONSIDERATION.
HILLENBRAND

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